

Theory of knowledge prescribed titles

November 2016 examination session

Instructions to candidates

Your theory of knowledge essay for examination must be submitted to your teacher for authentication. It must be written on one of the six titles (questions) provided overleaf. You may choose any title, but are recommended to consult with your teacher. Your essay will be marked according to the assessment instrument published in the **theory of knowledge guide**. The focus of your essay should be on knowledge questions. Where appropriate, refer to other parts of your IB programme and to your experiences as a knower. Always justify your statements and provide relevant examples to illustrate your arguments. Pay attention to the implications of your arguments, and remember to consider what can be said against them. If you use external sources, cite them according to a recognized convention.

Note that statements in quotations in these titles are not necessarily authentic: they present a real point of view but may not be direct quotes. It is appropriate to analyse them but it is unnecessary, even unwise, to spend time on researching a context for them.

Examiners mark essays against the title as set. Respond to the title exactly as given; do not alter it in any way.

Your essay must have a maximum of 1600 words, it must be double-spaced and typed in size 12 font.

1. “The acquisition of knowledge is more a matter of recognition than of judgment.” Evaluate this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 2. Is the availability of more data always helpful in the production of knowledge? Explore this question with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 3. “Conflicting knowledge claims always involve a difference in perspective.” Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 4. “Error is as valuable as accuracy in the production of knowledge.” To what extent is this the case in two areas of knowledge?
 5. “Metaphor makes no contribution to knowledge but is essential for understanding.” Evaluate this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 6. “Ways of knowing operate differently in personal and shared knowledge.” Assess this claim.
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